

REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application and for granting a personal interview in this case. The application has been amended to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter that applicant regards as the invention.

A personal interview occurred on April 25, 2008. The participants were Examiner Lao and attorney Brad Spencer. Claim 21 was discussed, along with the cited Anderson reference (USPN 5,721,783). During the interview, the Examiner agreed to consider the present supplemental amendment.

In an Office action dated September 24, 2007, claims 21, 23, 25, 30-31, 33, 35 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,721,783 to Anderson.

Claims 21 and 31 now require a wireless transmission system comprising a plurality of hearing devices, means for transmitting a plurality of audio signals to the hearing devices at predefined carrier frequencies, and means for remotely generating and wirelessly transmitting configuration parameters to the hearing devices. Each hearing device includes means for tuning a means for receiving at least one of the audio signals to a signal according to the configuration parameters. The plurality of audio signals as well as the configuration parameters are transmitted wirelessly via independent transmission channels.

The subject matter of claims 21 and 31 is a wireless transmission system that includes a plurality of hearing devices. Configuration parameters are remotely generated and wirelessly transmitted to the hearing devices. Audio signals and the configuration parameters are transmitted wirelessly via independent transmission channels to the hearing devices. Each

hearing device can tune a receiver for the audio signals according to the independently transmitted configuration parameters. As discussed in the application, the claimed system would be useful in an assembly space, such as a school or conference room, and allow the hearing device to be automatically tuned to a transmission channel used in the assembly space.

Anderson does not teach plural hearing devices that each tune a means for receiving transmitted audio signals according to remotely generated and transmitted configuration parameters. Moreover, Anderson does not teach audio signals and configuration parameters that are transmitted to plural hearing devices over independent transmission channels. Anderson's RPU 23 transmits to a single earpiece 22 over a single transmission channel F2 (e.g., 90 MHz).

For at least the reasons discussed above, applicants submit that claims 21 and 31 are not anticipated by, and are allowable over, Anderson. Claims 23, 25 and 30 depend from claim 21. Claims 33, 35 and 40 depend from claim 31.

Claims 22, 28, 29, 32, 28 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson in view of Laitinen. Claims 22, 28 and 29 depend from claim 21. Claims 32, 38 and 39 depend from claim 31. As explained above, all of the limitations of claims 21 and 31 are not taught by Anderson. Further, the teachings of Anderson in view of Laitinen fails to render obvious the limitations of which Anderson is deficient as described above. Therefore, claims 22, 28, 29, 32, 28 and 39 are nonobvious in view of the prior art of record, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 41-45 were added by the amendment dated March 24, 2008.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the

application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. TSW-32978.

Respectfully submitted,
PEARNE & GORDON LLP

By: 
Brad C. Spencer – Reg. No. 57,076

1801 East 9th Street
Suite 1200
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-3108
(216) 579-1700

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